

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG)

Mr. Ben Bearden
State Medicaid Director
Department of Health and Hospitals
Post Office Box 91030
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9030

Dear Mr. Bearden:

I am pleased to inform you that your request for a new home and community-based services waiver entitled the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), as authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act, has been approved. Based on your request of October 15, 2002, as well as supplemental information, this waiver is approved for a three-year period effective April 24, 2003. This waiver has been assigned Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services control number #0401-IP, which should be referenced on all future correspondence relating to this waiver. This waiver will replace waiver #0200.90.R1.

The waiver targets individuals who are MR/DD who, absent the waiver, require an Intermediate Care Facility/Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) level of care. You requested a waiver of section 1902(a)(10)(B) of the Social Security Act regarding comparability of services. This waiver offers respite, habilitation (residential habilitation, day habilitation, supported employment services, employment related training), environmental accessibility adaptations, skilled nursing, specialized medical equipment and supplies, personal emergency response systems, adult residential care, individualized and family support, community integration development, professional services, professional consultation, transition start up expenses, and transitional professional support services to participating individuals. The waiver will also allow persons the option of self-directing. This option will be phased-in over a three-year period by increasing the number of recipients and services.

The following estimates of unduplicated recipients and average per capita costs of waiver services have been approved:

Year	Unduplicated Recipients	Factor D
1	4,251	\$44,459
2	4,576	\$46,952
3	4,776	\$49,363

Approval is subject to your agreement to serve no more than the individuals indicated above. If Louisiana wants to serve a larger number of unduplicated recipients or make alterations to this waiver, an amendment must be submitted for approval. Should it be necessary, the waiver can be renewed at the end of the three-year period by providing documentation of satisfactory performance and oversight.

We appreciate the cooperation provided by you and your staff and congratulate you on being one of the first states to have a waiver approved under the parameters of the *Independence Plus* initiative. We are appreciative of our opportunity to work with you on this application as it has helped us clarify the essential elements for future self-directed waiver requests.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Duckett
Director
Division of Benefits, Coverage, and Payment

cc: Dallas Regional Office

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